

Message Text

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15

ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 FBO-01 DODE-00 SSO-00 L-03 INR-10

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O 180835 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8067

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 4283

FOR: FBO; A/ SY/ FO, A/ SY/ NSU, EUR/ EX, EUR/ SOV; ALSO PASS
INFO TO CHIEF OF STAFF, AIRFORCE AF/ INSD, DIA (AA-4, DS-6)

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, ASEC, UR
SUBJ: REPAIRS TO CHANCERY FAÇADE

REF: STATE 034177; MOSCOW 1718 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. UPDK AND MOSSOVIET HAVE GIVEN EMBASSY THEIR PROPOSAL TO BEGIN FAÇADE REPAIRS APRIL 20. SEABEE BROWN, FBO FRITZ AND ALL EMBASSY ELEMENTS HAVE MET AND AGREED ON WORKPLAN. REQUEST APPROVAL TO BEGIN PROJECT, AND SEABEES, MARINES AND FUNDS TO PROCEED.

2. WITH ARRIVAL OF SEABEE BUC BROWN AND FBO FRITZAN ALL ELEMENTS OF EMBASSY CONCERNED WITH LONGSTANDING NEED TO REPAIR FAÇADE MET APRIL 17 TO REVIEW SOVIET WORKPLAN PROPOSED BY MOSSOVIET AND UPDK ON APRIL 13.

3. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT FACTS CONTAINED IN ORAL PRESENTATION FROM SOVIET SIDE (ON WHICH EMBASSY OFFERED NO DISCUSSION AS DIRECTED IN PARA 4 DEPTEL 023239):

A. APRIL 20 - SOVIETS BEGIN ERECTING SCAFFOLDING ON WEST SIDE OF NORTH WING WITH WORK PROGRESSING AROUND NORTH FACE TO EAST (STREET) SIDE OF NORTH WING.

B. 15 JUNE - WORK INCLUDING SCRAPING, REPAIR OF
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CRACKS, SURFACE SEACING, AND PAINTING COMPLETED ON
NORTH WING.

C. 15 JUNE - BEGIN SCAFFOLDING STREET SIDE CENTRAL
WING AND COMPLETING JOB BY 30 JUNE.

D. 30 JUNE SOVIETS BEGIN MAIN FACADE REPAIR JOB
(SCRAPING THROUGH PAINTING). IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN
TIME REQUIRED TO COMPLETE JOB AND EMBR4. THE PRESS THE SAME DAY REPORTED
THE LEADER OF THE
ANTI- CHOGYAL SIKKIM JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE AS CLAIM-
ING THAT THE RULING FAMILY HAD TRIED TO PRESSURE INDIA
THROUGH THE US. HE ALLEGEDLY ASKED THE GOI TO DENY
" INNER- LINE" PERMITS TO ENTER SIKKIM TO FOREIGNERS AND
" ESPECIALLY AMERICANS." NO INDIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL
HAS EVEN HINTED AT ANY US INVOLVEMENT BUT PRESUMABLY
THE GOI IS WELL AWARE OF THE GYALMO'S EFFORTS FOR
SEVERAL YEARS TO SPREAD THE SPIRIT OF SIKKIMESE NATIONALISM
AMONG AMERICAN VISITORS TO SIKKIM AND ON HER
TRIPS BACK TO THE US.

5. AS WE HAVE OBSERVED BEFORE, THE PROBLEM OF
NEPALESE MAJORITY/ LEPCHA- BHUTIA- TIBETAN MINORITY
RELATIONS IN SIKKIM IS A REAL ONE WHICH WILL NOT
GO AWAY EVEN WITH GREATER INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE
INVOLVEMENT IN GANGTOK. SIKKIM WILL CONTINUE TO
BE A HEADACHE FOR WE GOI.

PALMER

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